When the Church Resembles the World: A Cry for the Heavenly Standard

We live in a time when moral values are increasingly confused, and truth is often distorted, minimized, or called into question. Today, things once considered sin are presented as acceptable, normal, or even worthy of promotion.

More and more, the momentary pleasures of sin—such as seeking worldly entertainment or exposing oneself to environments that encourage the flesh—are adopted without discernment by those who call themselves Christians. These choices not only weaken the testimony, but bring reproach upon the Name of God, compromising the call to holiness and separation from the world.

The righteousness of God—a central theme of Scripture—no longer stirs interest, because it strikes directly at unjust practices and the sinful habits of many who claim to be born of God.

Like a pandemic, the desire for gain obtained through dishonest means has spread throughout Christendom, affecting consciences and weakening the witness of those who ought to walk in the light. Integrity is increasingly sacrificed for self-interest, and holiness is replaced by a relative morality— flexible and adapted to circumstances.

Sins such as anger, disobedience to authorities, or the consumption of worldly content are increasingly ignored, though Scripture warns that such things separate us from the Kingdom of God. Slander likewise is no longer regarded as a serious sin, but as an acceptable form of expression—tolerated today in the church that claims to be Christ's.

In these days of deep spiritual confusion, the church is steadily losing its identity, becoming ever more like the world. The values of the Kingdom are replaced with personal opinions, and the call to holiness is often silenced out of fear of losing acceptance and popularity. Instead of being a light that shines in the darkness, the church has become only a pale shadow of what it ought to be—a living testimony to the character of Christ.

A "Jesus" is preached who asks almost nothing, who does not rebuke, who does not require a life lived in His righteousness—a false, convenient Jesus who does not trouble the conscience. In such a setting, human righteousness—based on appearances, self-justifications, and shifting standards—is often confused with the righteousness of God, which is holy, just, and unchanging. Scripture warns in Proverbs 14:12 of this danger: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end

thereof are the ways of death".

It is a clear—prophetic—cry, calling us to return to the heavenly standard: to the righteousness that flows from the holy character of God. It is not a theological treatise, but an urgent call to authentic discipleship, to a way of life that reflects the light of the Kingdom of Christ in every aspect of our lives.

It does not offer spiritual comfort, but provokes a deep searching of the heart. It does not flatter the human nature, but confronts it with the reality of sin, with the need for genuine repentance, and with the price that must be paid by the one who chooses to live in the righteousness of God—a price that includes self-denial, material losses, suffering, rejection, and even persecution.

It is an invitation to a life lived in the light, in truth, in obedience to the commandments of Christ. It is a call to transparency, to the renunciation of dishonest gain, to restitution to the wronged party, and to a holy separation from every form of compromise.

The profound discrepancy between the eternal values of the Kingdom of God and the values of the kingdom of darkness, which dominate the religious world, must be brought to light. This truth does not merely inform, but confronts the conscience, calling each one to choose between two incompatible realities.

The Kingdom of God is built upon the foundation of His righteousness, being a kingdom of absolute justice, in which purity and integrity define the character of those who belong to it. Scripture reveals that souls hungry and thirsty for this pure life press into it, longing earnestly to live according to its values. As it is written: "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force..." (Matthew 11:12).

In contrast, the kingdom of darkness promotes contrary values: slander, corruption, unjust gain, lying, immorality, disobedience to authorities, and many others. These are not merely social deviations, but sins which, according to Scripture, exclude people from inheriting the Kingdom of God: "Be not deceived:... or thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."(1 Corinthians 6:9–10)

We are called to a radical separation from sin, to genuine repentance, and to a life lived in the light of divine righteousness.

This post is an excerpt from the booklet "Life Lived in the Righteousness of Christ", which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.